

Pharmaceuticals and our Environment



State of Maine
Department of Environmental Protection

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November 4, 2008

Welcome to Maine

6,000 lakes and ponds

32,000 miles of rivers and streams

5300 miles of coastline; one of the longest in the continental U.S.

Nearly 90% forested; most heavily forested state in the continental US.

Home to about 20% of the nation's intact brook trout populations and primary steward of 97% of the wild brook trout in large lakes in the eastern US.



Maine has Great Water

**95% of Maine
waters meet their
Clean Water Act
designated uses.**



**98% of our rivers and
streams are well above
Clean Water Act
minimum standards.**

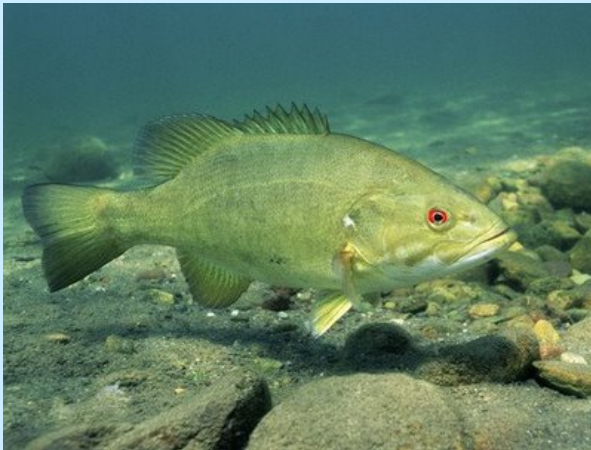


But still have fish advisories
All of the waters of the state are under
fish advisories for mercury

Three rivers in northern Maine
remain under fish advisories for
DDT that was banned in Maine four
decades ago.

We want to be proactive with the PPCP issue.

Now limited studies establish that pharmaceuticals can be found in Maine surface and ground waters.



Maine is experienced in implementing product stewardship programs

- Maine DEP implements multiple Product Stewardship programs to reduce environmental, health and disposal concerns:
- mercury auto switches, TVs and computer monitors, and mercury thermostats. Pharmaceuticals are next!



Pharmaceutical Legislation

- Legislation has been drafted.
- Meeting with other agencies delayed so that legislation's release will be in Dec.
- Draft based on Washington's legislation.
- Emphasis on Maine's mail-back model.
- Maine DEA and DEP will co-administer.



Pharmaceutical Legislation

- 156 pharmaceutical companies registered with the Maine Board of Pharmacy.
- Over 1100 companies listed in Red Book.
- Maine wants to start dialogue in December.
- Pharmaceutical cos, environmental and health organizations and law enforcement will be invited.
 - Stay Tuned!